

# **Standard-documentation Meta information**

**(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)**

on

## **Survey on fruit plantations 2017**

This documentation is valid for the reference period:

**2017**

Status: **18.03.2019**



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## Executive Summary

Commercial fruit plantations are agricultural areas, cultivated with fruit trees fully or mainly used for marketing purposes.

The survey on commercial fruit plantations, which is conducted at five-year intervals on the basis of an EU Regulation, provides comprehensive data on the production structure of certain types of fruit in Austrian commercial fruit farming. Besides detailed information on the size of the cultivated area and the number and age of the trees, the survey also records the most important varieties of fruit. The results of this survey enable the data to be differentiated by size categories and key production areas, and regional results to be presented according to political districts. Organic commercial fruit farming is also considered.

Commercial fruit farming is distinguished from extensive forms of agriculture (domestic gardens, mixed orchards) by its primarily commercial focus (>50%) and, usually, regular distances between the plants and a level of care suited to the production of high-quality dessert fruit. For this reason cider apple plantations with their corresponding structure are included in the survey.

The selection framework used for the 2017 survey included all holdings that had stated commercial fruit growing areas in the farm register (iFarm). The farm register is held very actual due to survey data, administrative data and direct information from farmers. Fruit area data of the farm register were compared with data from Agrarmarkt Austria (analysis of multiple area applications 2017), data from the Survey on Fruit Plantations 2012 and 2007 as well as of farm structure survey 2016, in order to exclude holdings with exclusively extensive fruit production. In cases of doubt, holding units were left in the survey population. By making this preliminary selection it was possible to reduce significantly the number of units that did not meet the survey criteria and therefore also reduce the burden on respondents as a result of non-responses.

The survey was conducted with the assistance of the provincial chambers of agriculture, which were fully informed of the survey and therefore were able to assist the farmers if needed. For data collection exclusively the electronic questionnaire (eQuest) was used.

The survey was conducted in the form of a concentration sample, which almost achieved the scope of a full survey. However, holdings considered not relevant in terms of commercial fruit growing were excluded by a survey threshold of 0.15 ha (total of fruits) or 0.10 ha concerning soft fruits. Similar to 2012 the fully utilised area was surveyed. Therefore direct comparison of actual results with those of 2007 as well as with those from earlier surveys in 2002, 1997, 1994 and 1989 is only possible to a limited extent, as net area was the basis before 2012. The comparison to the survey 2012 is limited too, as other thresholds applied then and only four fruit species were surveyed. For comparison reasons in the publication the results 2007 were adapted to the criteria of 2017; for comparison to 2012, the results of 2017 were adapted to the criteria of 2012.

When designing the 2017 survey questionnaire, particular attention was laid on a user friendly structure, incorporation of administrative data and integrated plausibility checks.

To ensure the high quality of the results, comprehensive plausibility checks were performed when processing the data, including the use of administrative data as well as of data from previous surveys (2012 and 2007).

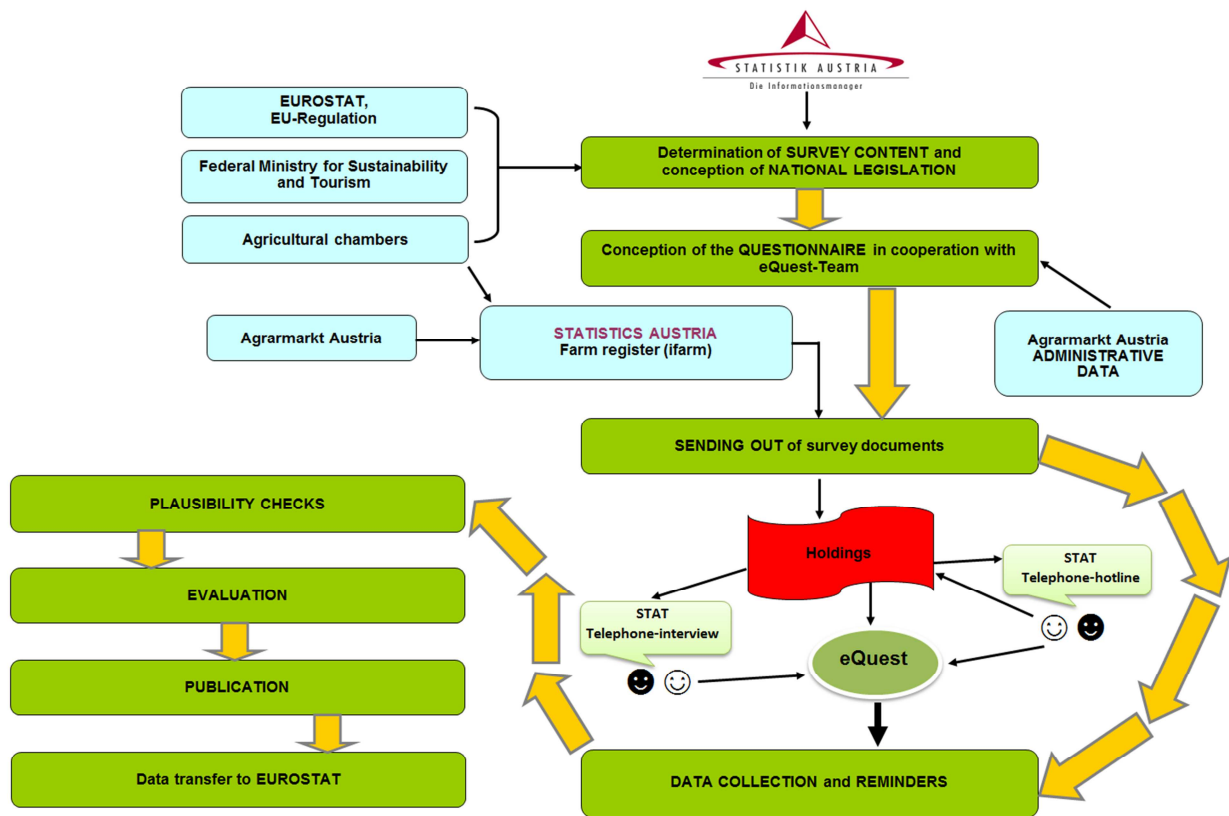


Fig. 1: Schematic illustration of survey procedure

## Survey on fruit plantations 2017 – Main Features

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Subject matter</b>                             | Commercial fruit cultivation in Austria in 2017   |
| <b>Population</b>                                 | 3 909 fruit holdings  |
| <b>Type of statistics</b>                         | Primary statistical survey (concentration sample with the character of a full survey)   |
| <b>Data sources/Survey techniques</b>             | Primary survey of fruit farmers   |
| <b>Reference period or due day</b>                | 15 November 2017, calendar year 2017 for area related issues  |
| <b>Periodicity</b>                                | Every five years  |
| <b>Survey participation (in case of a survey)</b> | Obligatory  |
| <b>Main legal acts</b>                            | <a href="#">Federal Law Gazette II No. 247/2017</a> dated 11 September 2017<br><a href="#">EU Regulation No 1337/2011</a> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011   |
| <b>Most detailed regional breakdown</b>           | Municipalities  |
| <b>Availability of results</b>                    | Preliminary data: t + 5 months<br>Final data:<br>t + 8 months main results<br>t + 10 comprehensive report   |
| <b>Other</b>                                      | Because the threshold has changed to the last survey 2012 and more fruit species were surveyed, a direct comparison of the current results with those from 2012 is only possible with accordingly adapted values 2017. Due to changed area definition comparison to the results from 2007 are limited as well; however, for comparison reasons the results of 2007 were adjusted in line with the new definition (from net area to utilised area) and as such included in the 2017 publication. |